Abstract

An input interface for effectively selecting keywords for a database search, and a search system using the interface. A database search system includes a engine section, an input/output control section that controls entry of a keyword and output of a database search result, and a search system control section that determines a display manner of the keyword responsive to an effectiveness measure of the keyword such as a hit ratio or number of hits in the database. Before the search is executed, the search system control determines the display manner of the keyword. Display manners may specify various display colors, fonts, special symbols, and the like.